PLANT FACT SHEET

Doryanthes excelsa Correa

GENUS *Doryanthes* **FAMILY** Doryanthaceae

COMMON NAMES Giant lily, Flame lily, Globe spear-lily, Gymea lily, Illawarra Lily

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root, Flower spike

The stems are cut 30 cm long and roasted.
The roots are also roasted and made into a cake.

DESCRIPTION

A large lily. It forms a large tussock. It grows 1-1.5 m high and spreads 2-3 m across. The leaves are long and broad and spear like. They are thick and bright green. They are 1.5 m long and 10 cm wide. The flowers are large and dark red. They occur in dense heads at the end of the plant. These are about 30 cm across. They are on very tall flowering stems up to 5 m tall. Each flower has 6 narrow segments 10 cm long and fused at the base. They are surrounded by deep red bracts. The fruit is a dry capsule. It is 20 cm long. The seeds are winged and reddish-brown.

HABITAT

Temperate. It can grow in the tropics. It grows in sandstone areas. It occurs in light open forest. It needs well drained soils. It can grow in full sun or light shade. It can survive drought. Adelaide Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 9-11.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed or by division of the clump.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants are slow growing. They take 5-10 years to flower.

NOTES

There are 2 Doryanthes species. There is only one genus in the Dryanthaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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